

# Kansas Agitator

Devoted to the interests of

## THE MASSES.

A Fearless, Aggressive, Progressive  
Advocate of All Reforms.

W. O. CHAMPE, Editor.

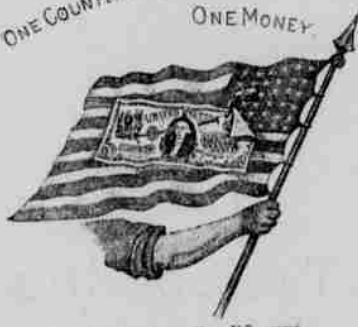
J. M. ALEXANDER, } Assoc'te Ed's.  
W. H. AMBROSE, }

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K. R. P. A.

ONE COUNTRY. ONE FLAG.  
ONE MONEY.



DESIGNED BY MARK M. DUNN

## NO HUNGRY PEOPLE.

A few days ago, one of Garnett's merchants said to the writer that there are no hungry, unemployed people in this country. We told him there were thousands of them no further away than Kansas City. This he vehemently denied. The next day, that plutocratic sheet, the Kansas City Star, which has ever claimed that times are good, and that money and work are plenty, contained the following editorial:

"Three thousand men stood at the junction of Independence avenue and Porter road yesterday morning, asking for work on the construction of a sewer. Fifty men were chosen. Twenty-nine hundred and fifty men turned away and went home where anxious wives and hungry families were waiting, and greeted the faces at the door with the old heavy look of disappointment. If the method of computing population from the heads of families is correct, then nothing is more certain than that 12,000 people in Kansas City are in want of work.

"Yet, with these thousands willing to work—imploping work—crying for work—there is plenty of work in Kansas City to do—plenty that ought to be done. There are miles of streets which ought to be improved now! There is work enough of a public character which is steadily demanded by the public welfare to furnish employment to every idle man in Kansas City." \* \* \*

The merchant referred to also said that if the Pullman employes didn't like the wages they were getting, they should have got a job somewhere else; that if they couldn't get work at one place, they should go elsewhere.

Well, there were over five thou-

sand of those Pullman employes. If they had gone in a body in search of work, they would have been called "a gang of dirty tramps and hobos," and they would be met at the outskirts of each town they undertook to enter, and ordered by the authorities not to enter the city; or, if they had succeeded in getting into town, they would have been arrested for stepping on the grass.

It, instead of going in a body in search of work, they had gone out singly, in pairs or in little squads, they would have been arrested as tramps and put on the rock-pile.

If we could not see or hear, we might possibly believe that everything is lovely; but a man who is possessed of the five senses and is not a "natural-born durned fool" is well aware of the fact that the times are out of joint, and that there are multiplied thousands of hungry, unemployed men and their families in this country. In the face of the facts, a man who will deny the truth as herein set forth is either very ignorant or very dishonest.

Plenty of work? Why, yes; of course there's plenty of work all about us. Farmers need hands to help about the farm work, and they need barns and better houses. But where is the money to pay the hands or to buy lumber and pay for building the houses and barns? New houses and improvements are needed in town, but there is no money to pay for them. There is much public work to be done, but no money to pay for it. This every sensible person knows, whether he acknowledges it or not. On account of this lack of money to pay for work, we have millions of unemployed, half-starved people in this country, our friend the merchant to the contrary, notwithstanding.

There are mean sayings, and devilish sayings, and sayings that breed contempt. To those that are devilish, and so base in thought as to breed contempt, the following, taken from that great sewer of filth, the Kansas City Journal, we would direct special attention: "Governor Altgeld does not approve of the assassination of Carnot. Mr. Altgeld, it seems, is not in favor of substituting the knife for the bomb." The insinuation in this devilish fling is that Governor Altgeld is in favor of assassination with the bomb, and it is not the assassination of President Carnot to which he objects, but the manner of his taking off. Can hellish vindictiveness go farther? Is there a deeper depth of infamy than that betrayed by the Journal pot-house scribbler? If there is, the Devil certainly has no place he could fill, for he would lead a revolt of the legions.

KEEP in the middle of the road.

The Fourth-of-July celebration at Merriam park, near Minneapolis, Minn., was a celebration of reformers. Our own ex-Governor St. John was there, and was one of the principal speakers, if not the principal speaker. Hon. S. M. Owen, the Populist nominee for governor of Minnesota, also spoke, preceding Gov. St. John. A union of reform parties was advocated by St. John, in his speech. Turning to Mr. Owen, he said: "My brother, there is no more reason why the parties we belong to should be separated than that the Presbyterian and Congregationalist should take different roads to Heaven." He handled the money question with a master hand. To a representative of the Minneapolis Tribune he said, relative to the present labor troubles: "The present trouble is the legitimate outgrowth of a long line of vicious legislation in the interest of monopolies, trusts and capital, and against the great body of the common people. The strike of to-day is simply an enlarged and intensified struggle between capital and labor, which will probably result in a temporary victory for capital in the suppression of labor by military force. While my entire sympathy is with the men, and I believe they are right, and will ultimately triumph, it will not be until more abuse is heaped upon them. The railroad companies have the power, and the government's back of them, and when a man has a family crying for bread, he is bound to accept work. But no power on earth can suppress the spirit of unrest that exists to-day. There is but one way out, and that is absolute control by the government of all means of travel and communication. The demonetization of silver, tariff legislation, and, above all, the temperance question, has done much to bring about the present terrible financial condition of the country. And in the midst of all our troubles congress is juggling with the tariff question, while millions are being made by those who have the tip as to the final outcome. The present senate is a disgrace to the nation, and might as well be abolished. It should either be abolished or there should be a change in the manner of electing senators."

The Kansas Farmer seems to think that the Pullman boycott was pre-arranged for the purpose of forcing a reduction of wages of railway employes. The Farmer is right.

If the American Railway Union had struck at the ballot-box for presidents, congressmen and judges, it would have no greivances—no wrongs that needed righting.

The man who cannot see danger ahead is truly blind.

The Minneapolis Tribune of the 5th inst. gives an interesting account of the celebration the Fourth at Minnehaha Falls, at which Gen. J. S. Coxey spoke. The Tribune says the crowd will never be computed, but it was enormous. Gen. Coxey spoke for two hours, and he was interrupted by frequent bursts of deafening applause. The Tribune, in describing the speaker, says: "Mr. Coxey is a modest, unaffected gentleman, quiet and unassuming in his manner, giving one the impression of a well-to-do business man, which he is, and devoid of a single intemperate or vindictive sentiment. He dresses and talks like a gentleman. He abuses nobody but crooked legislators, and wants to see the people get good roads. His speech was a revelation to thousands." Speaking of the grass episode, Gen. Coxey said: "My fellow citizens, I did not step on the grass. Mr. Brown did, and the police took after him. I had plenty of room on the walk, and reached the capitol steps without having touched the grass. I did not dream of being arrested. I had asked permission to speak, and had met with some courtesy from those supposed to be in authority. I did nothing which an American citizen living in this free land of ours might not do with perfect propriety. The charge of walking on the grass was trumped up by Grover, presumably. They wanted an excuse to arrest the 'ring-leader'. But, seriously, my friends, suppose I had inadvertently stepped on the grass. It would not have been a crime. If grass is so precious in Washington, we had better move the capitol out West, where it is not so much of a luxury. The other charge against me was for displaying a banner. It was an innocent little thing. (Mr. Coxey held up a small white banner about 6x12.) Let me read you the terrible words which were printed on the banner. I did not carry it, but Mr. Brown did: 'Peace on earth, good will to men.' Not a dangerous sentiment, is it? Here is another sample: 'Death to interest on bonds.' That was the trouble. The banner contained nothing else, except, 'The Commonwealth of Christ.'" The Tribune says that when the speaker had finished, the crowd set up a tremendous cheer, and there was a great rush to shake hands with the famous man.

WHAT class of men suffer more from a strike than farmers? and what class bear with wrong-doing more patiently than the agriculturists?

SEND us a dime and get a "Keep Off-the-Grass" badge. It's a daisy.

STRIKE at the ballot-box.